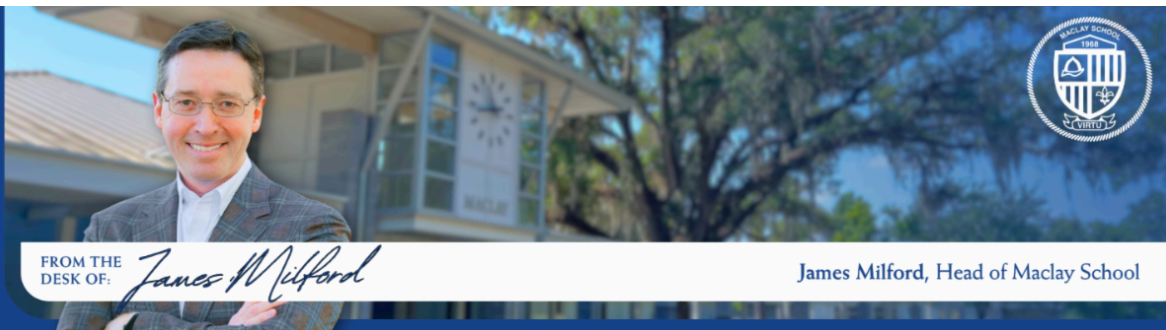




This time of year, seems to hit me a little deeper each year. One of our Maclay traditions is the status of a Charter Member. Charter status is obtained by graduating from Maclay and starting your journey in the 1st grade or before. 1st grade was the lowest grade of the school when it was founded almost 60 years ago. I believe what hit me deepest this year was that I, in a stretch of the rules, will be earning my Charter Medal on Friday night as I finish my 12th year at Maclay. This realization has caused me to reflect on that journey and how this wonderful community knows how to embrace, care for, prop up, push forward, and steward individuals in a thousand small ways to make a life well lived at any age.

As a school, the work this year has been meaningful and strategically structural. If you zoom out and look through a 5-6 year lens, seismic challenges were felt across education and our last strategic plan was a pathway through those times and as we ready the launch of our next one, we have completed an honest look at what should stay from those times and what needs to be discarded. This work has already started, and we are so very excited to lean heavily into our conversations about how important character is as the basis of our students future, how vital the ability to communicate well to make the impacts of that solid character wide-spread, and how to build a community that supports the growth, development, and striving of all of our students and faculty to their fullest extent.

A pre-K – 12th grade school can get very complicated as you layer on 15 grades, 51 sports teams, 15 artistic groups, and 16 academic competition teams, etc. However, what I wanted to share as a closing to this school year in this letter is the importance of each individual journey and how the impact you make in your community truly makes a difference. We have had times of reflection this year as we have lost two giants in the storyline of many who are reading this letter, Mr. Bill Jablon and Mr. Michael Obrecht. Both of these men, who devoted collectively close to 90 years at Maclay invested in so many lives and both constructed and stewarded the community over the years that it would be very difficult to recreate it ever in the school's future. That type of impact was what you heard me talk about in my opening community letter this year, the *power of one*. I hope your child can point to that one, and hopefully more, charismatic adult who lent them their confidence until their own caught up...someone who opened a door for them to walk through they did not think they could.

As we advance all our classes one year closer to graduation and celebrate our seniors, I wanted to share a few comments about the class I will share at graduation, because they are notable and personal...they speak of their character, impact, and the community they built to thrive and grow within.

This class is 99 graduates strong. Together, they have earned over \$5 million in merit-based scholarships. They were accepted into 130 different colleges and universities across 31 states, plus Washington, D.C., and across Europe. While their options were far and wide, they'll be attending schools in 15 states, D.C. and Spain, and 54% will stay right here in Florida...with 30% attending a Florida public university.

We are proud to graduate five National Merit Finalists and three National Merit Commended Students. Eight student athletes have signed to play at the collegiate level. 66 seniors earned an endorsement in our concentration programs...including Science, Computer Science, Engineering, Bio-Medical Sciences, Art, Entrepreneurship, Global Citizenship, Journalism, and Graphic Design.

This class has completed nearly 23,000 community service hours. In the arts, they earned 23 Superior Ratings and 31 Excellent Ratings, along with numerous local and state awards. They have earned 328 varsity letters. This class includes Eagle Scouts, Gold Award winners, and Best & Brightest winners; the largest group of small business owners of any previous class; published authors and pilots; and many state qualifiers in both the Arts and Athletics, including several members of the State Boys Soccer Championship and State Track and Field Championship teams and a few are on their way to becoming officers in the United States military. Among them, you will also find Lindy Hop instructors, circus performers, outdoorsmen and women, and one student preparing for a semester at sea. We're proud of each one of you.

As you embark on the summer, know that we continue to build and refine our programs to better meet your child's needs, hopes, and dreams. It is what we do best, and we love it.

Your Head of School,

James



MACLAY.ORG 850.893.2138
3737 North Meridian Rd. | Tallahassee, FL 32312

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